



Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General  
Policing and Security Branch

# Crime Statistics in British Columbia, 2019

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Date Prepared: December 2020

Crime Statistics in British Columbia, 2019

## Summary

- In 2019, BC's **crime rate** increased 17.3% from 2018, from 74.3 to 87.1 offences per 1,000 population.
- The notable increases in BC's crime statistics, as well as decreases in BC's clearance rates, were attributable in part to the adoption of changes to the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) scoring rules by BC police agencies in 2019, described in detail on Page 2.
- BC's overall **Crime Severity Index (CSI)** value for 2019 was 104.4, 17.3% higher than BC's 2018 CSI of 89.0 and 31.3% higher than the national CSI of 79.5 (+5.1%). This increase in BC's overall CSI was driven by increases in breaking and entering (+2,512); child pornography (+1,320); uttering threats (+6,982); trafficking, production, importation or exportation of other drugs (+1,719); mischief (+10,322); and fraud (+3,258).
- The number of police-reported **violent offences** in BC increased by 35.1% in 2019, resulting in a 33.2% increase in the **violent crime rate** (from 11.8 violent offences per 1,000 in 2018 to 15.7 in 2019).
- There were 20,738 more **violent offences** reported by police in BC in 2019, with the largest increases being total physical assaults (+8,621), uttering threats (+6,982), indecent or harassing phone calls (+2,535), and total sexual assaults (+1,134).
- BC's **violent CSI** for 2019 was 91.5, which was BC's highest violent CSI since 2011, 21.5% higher than BC's 2018 violent CSI of 75.3, and 2.0% higher than the national violent CSI (89.7, +7.3%). BC's violent CSI for 2019 was driven primarily by increases in uttering threats (+6,982), level 1 sexual assaults (+865), level 1 and 2 assaults (+8,399), robbery (+374), and sexual violations against children (+276).
- In 2019, 90 **homicides** were reported in BC, unchanged from 2018 but resulting in a 1.4% decrease in the homicide rate. There were 100 **attempted murders**, 12 more than in 2018, resulting in a 12.1% increase in the attempted murder rate.
- **Property offences** in BC increased by 13.2% in 2019, resulting in a 11.6% increase in the **property crime rate**, from 47.7 property offences per 1,000 in 2018 to 53.3 in 2019.
- BC's **non-violent CSI** for 2019 was 108.8, 16.1% higher than BC's 2018 non-violent CSI of 93.7 and 43.9% higher than the national non-violent CSI of 75.6 (+4.1%).
- There was a 24.4% increase in BC's total number of **other offences** in 2019, resulting in a 22.7% increase in the **other crime rate** to 18.1 offences per 1,000.
- **Drug offences** reported by police in BC increased by 2.4% in 2019, driven by increases in trafficking, production, importation or exportation of other drugs (+225.6%) and cocaine (+65.4%), offset by notable decreases in cannabis offences (-53.3%) due in part to the passage of the *Cannabis Act* in 2018. While overall drug offences increased in 2019, number of persons charged decreased for all drug types, except for non-heroin opioids.
- BC's **youth CSI** increased by 13.0% in 2019 to 38.3 from 33.9 in 2018, 29.9% lower than the national youth CSI of 54.6 (-3.6%).
- Police in BC reported having cleared 24.9% of all *Criminal Code* offences (excluding traffic) in 2019; 43.9% of all violent offences were cleared, as were 13.0% of all **property offences** and 43.4% of all **other offences**. These clearance rates were lower than the 2018 rates and are still below the national averages.

# Crime Statistics in British Columbia, 2019



## Impact of Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Scoring Rule Changes

Comparisons of crime statistics between jurisdictions, provinces, and years should be made with caution, as many factors influence police-reported crime statistics other than actual changes in crime, such as demographic changes, social and economic trends, public reporting practices to police, technological advancements, legislative amendments, local police service priorities, social perceptions and attitudes towards certain crimes, and other factors.

Changes in 2018 and 2019 are attributable in part to changes in reporting practices.

In January 2018, Statistics Canada updated the definitions of “founded” and “unfounded” crimes in its reporting methodology for police services across Canada. The new definitions represent a “victim-centred approach” to recording crimes, which means it is to be believed that the crime occurred (“founded”) unless there is credible evidence to prove it did not (“unfounded”). Statistics Canada predicted that as a result of these changes, the number of “founded” incidents for some types of crimes, including sexual assault, likely would increase and the clearance rate for these crimes likely would decrease.

Many police agencies across Canada implemented these changes at varying points throughout 2018, and the anticipated impacts on crime data may have already begun to occur in 2018. In BC, the rollout occurred later, which Statistics Canada noted may have contributed to the notable increases in BC’s police-reported crime in 2019.

Police agencies across BC implemented these scoring rule changes in January 2019. Additionally, Statistics Canada noted that police services in BC undertook a uniform training strategy to further standardize reporting throughout the province, which also may have contributed to BC’s increase.

More information about the UCR Survey and these scoring rule changes can be found at:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2018001/article/54973-eng.htm>

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2020001/article/00010-eng.htm>

# Crime Statistics in British Columbia, 2019

## Table 1: Police-Reported *Criminal Code* Offences in BC

Crime Category	Number of Offences			Rate per Population*			Offences Cleared			Persons Charged		
	2018	2019	% Chg	2018	2019	% Chg	2018	2019	% Chg	2018	2019	% Chg
<b>CRIMINAL CODE OFFENCES**</b>												
Homicide <sup>1,2</sup>	90	90	0.0%	1.8	1.8	-1.4%	39	41	5.1%	46	34	-26.1%
Attempted murder <sup>1</sup>	88	100	13.6%	1.8	2.0	12.1%	47	57	21.3%	49	48	-2.0%
Sexual assault offences <sup>3</sup>	4,419	5,553	25.7%	0.9	1.1	23.9%	2,276	2,333	2.5%	1,786	1,768	-1.0%
Sexual offence before 1983 <sup>4</sup>	56	57	1.8%	0.0	0.0	0.4%	29	23	-20.7%	19	18	-5.3%
Commodification of sexual activity <sup>5</sup>	107	153	43.0%	0.0	0.0	41.0%	37	45	21.6%	20	30	50.0%
Assault offences <sup>6</sup>	31,815	40,436	27.1%	6.4	8.0	25.3%	21,475	23,029	7.2%	13,864	14,080	1.6%
Firearms	201	363	80.6%	0.0	0.1	78.1%	93	157	68.8%	75	118	57.3%
Robbery	2,482	2,856	15.1%	0.5	0.6	13.5%	1,042	1,109	6.4%	965	1,079	11.8%
Forcible confinement/kidnapping	349	387	10.9%	0.1	0.1	9.4%	288	296	2.8%	301	279	-7.3%
Abduction	61	64	4.9%	0.0	0.0	3.5%	22	21	-4.5%	16	15	-6.3%
Extortion	1,060	1,021	-3.7%	0.2	0.2	-5.0%	95	124	30.5%	61	88	44.3%
Criminal harassment	1,619	2,300	42.1%	0.3	0.5	40.1%	844	904	7.1%	470	464	-1.3%
Uttering threats	9,703	16,685	72.0%	1.9	3.3	69.6%	4,727	5,465	15.6%	2,197	2,286	4.1%
Indecent or harassing phone calls	6,447	8,982	39.3%	1.3	1.8	37.4%	775	1,149	48.3%	84	127	51.2%
Other violent offences <sup>7</sup>	591	779	31.8%	0.1	0.2	30.0%	267	319	19.5%	131	193	47.3%
<b>Total violent offences</b>	<b>59,088</b>	<b>79,826</b>	<b>35.1%</b>	<b>11.8</b>	<b>15.7</b>	<b>33.2%</b>	<b>32,056</b>	<b>35,072</b>	<b>9.4%</b>	<b>20,084</b>	<b>20,627</b>	<b>2.7%</b>
Breaking and entering	26,247	28,759	9.6%	5.2	5.7	8.1%	2,773	3,120	12.5%	2,400	2,608	8.7%
Possession of stolen property	3,552	5,252	47.9%	0.7	1.0	45.8%	1,847	2,087	13.0%	1,407	1,560	10.9%
Trafficking in stolen property <sup>8</sup>	35	43	22.9%	0.0	0.0	21.2%	27	13	-51.9%	17	15	-11.8%
Theft of motor vehicle <sup>9</sup>	12,594	13,352	6.0%	2.5	2.6	4.6%	911	996	9.3%	491	440	-10.4%
Theft <sup>10</sup>	125,773	138,559	10.2%	25.1	27.3	8.6%	13,812	15,354	11.2%	6,646	7,284	9.6%
Fraud <sup>11</sup>	23,947	27,205	13.6%	4.8	5.4	12.0%	2,948	3,164	7.3%	2,029	2,097	3.4%
Mischief	45,288	55,610	22.8%	9.1	11.0	21.1%	9,204	10,373	12.7%	1,628	1,763	8.3%
Arson	1,356	1,549	14.2%	0.3	0.3	12.7%	140	153	9.3%	91	78	-14.3%
Altering, removing or destroying VIN <sup>12</sup>	7	1	-85.7%	0.0	0.0	-85.9%	1	1	0.0%	1	1	0.0%
<b>Total property offences</b>	<b>238,799</b>	<b>270,330</b>	<b>13.2%</b>	<b>47.7</b>	<b>53.3</b>	<b>11.6%</b>	<b>31,663</b>	<b>35,261</b>	<b>11.4%</b>	<b>14,710</b>	<b>15,846</b>	<b>7.7%</b>
Counterfeiting	172	154	-10.5%	0.0	0.0	-11.7%	172	154	-10.5%	145	123	-15.2%
Weapons	3,284	4,312	31.3%	0.7	0.9	29.5%	2,257	2,563	13.6%	1,141	1,255	10.0%
Child pornography <sup>13</sup>	1,890	3,210	69.8%	0.4	0.6	67.5%	176	178	1.1%	131	113	-13.7%
Prostitution <sup>5,14</sup>	26	40	53.8%	0.0	0.0	51.7%	12	5	-58.3%	6	4	-33.3%
Disturb the peace	42,025	51,851	23.4%	8.4	10.2	21.7%	12,793	14,085	10.1%	748	817	9.2%
Administration of justice <sup>15</sup>	19,666	23,573	19.9%	3.9	4.6	18.2%	17,940	19,333	7.8%	13,797	14,111	2.3%
Other violations <sup>16</sup>	6,667	8,560	28.4%	1.3	1.7	26.6%	3,194	3,524	10.3%	1,753	1,833	4.6%
<b>Total other Criminal Code offences</b>	<b>73,730</b>	<b>91,700</b>	<b>24.4%</b>	<b>14.7</b>	<b>18.1</b>	<b>22.7%</b>	<b>36,544</b>	<b>39,842</b>	<b>9.0%</b>	<b>17,721</b>	<b>18,256</b>	<b>3.0%</b>
<b>TOTAL CRIMINAL CODE OFFENCES**</b>	<b>371,617</b>	<b>441,856</b>	<b>18.9%</b>	<b>74.3</b>	<b>87.1</b>	<b>17.3%</b>	<b>100,263</b>	<b>110,175</b>	<b>9.9%</b>	<b>52,515</b>	<b>54,729</b>	<b>4.2%</b>

\*Crime rates are calculated per 1,000 population, with the exception of homicides and attempted murders, which are calculated per 100,000 population. Rates have been rounded to the nearest 0.1 which may affect calculations.

\*\*Total Criminal Code Offences (excluding traffic offences).

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**Table 2: Police-Reported Drug Offences in BC**

<i>Controlled Drugs and Substances Act</i>	Number of Offences			Rate per Population*			Offences Cleared			Persons Charged		
	2018	2019	% Chg	2018	2019	% Chg	2018	2019	% Chg	2018	2019	% Chg
Cannabis <sup>17</sup>	7,822	197	-	1.6	0.0	-	5,475	39	-	1,525	15	-
Cocaine	2,854	3,481	22.0%	0.6	0.7	20.3%	1,814	1,456	-19.7%	941	790	-16.0%
Heroin	1,682	1,699	1.0%	0.3	0.3	-0.4%	1,154	794	-31.2%	485	305	-37.1%
Non-heroin opioids <sup>18</sup>	1,154	1,917	66.1%	0.2	0.4	63.8%	895	1,405	57.0%	564	841	49.1%
Methamphetamines	2,992	3,186	6.5%	0.6	0.6	5.0%	2,276	2,096	-7.9%	1,034	924	-10.6%
Other <sup>19</sup>	2,475	5,640	127.9%	0.5	1.1	124.7%	1,264	1,314	4.0%	589	518	-12.1%
<b>Total CDSA Offences</b>	<b>18,979</b>	<b>16,120</b>	<b>-15.1%</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>-16.2%</b>	<b>12,878</b>	<b>7,104</b>	<b>-44.8%</b>	<b>5,138</b>	<b>3,393</b>	<b>-34.0%</b>
<b>Total Cannabis Act Offences<sup>20</sup></b>	<b>265</b>	<b>3,581</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>593</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>TOTAL DRUG OFFENCES<sup>21</sup></b>	<b>19,244</b>	<b>19,701</b>	<b>2.4%</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>1.0%</b>	<b>12,997</b>	<b>7,697</b>	<b>-40.8%</b>	<b>5,220</b>	<b>3,595</b>	<b>-31.1%</b>

\*Crime rates for the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* (CDSA) and the *Cannabis Act* are calculated per 1,000 population. Rates have been rounded to the nearest 0.1 which may affect calculations.

**Table 3: Crime Rate (BC and Canada)**

Crime Rate*	BC			Canada		
	2018	2019	% Chg	2018	2019	% Chg
Violent crime rate	11.8	15.7	33.2%	11.5	12.8	10.9%
Property crime rate	47.7	53.3	11.6%	33.5	35.1	4.8%
Other crime rate	14.7	18.1	22.7%	10.1	10.9	7.3%
<b>Overall <i>Criminal Code</i> crime rate</b>	<b>74.3</b>	<b>87.1</b>	<b>17.3%</b>	<b>55.1</b>	<b>58.7</b>	<b>6.5%</b>

\*Crime rates are calculated per 1,000 population. Rates have been rounded to the nearest 0.1 which may affect calculations.

**Table 4: Clearance Rate (BC and Canada)**

Clearance Rate	BC			Canada		
	2018	2019	% Chg	2018	2019	% Chg
Violent crime clearance rate	54.3%	43.9%	-19.0%	67.7%	60.9%	-10.0%
Property crime clearance rate	13.3%	13.0%	-1.6%	20.6%	19.5%	-5.2%
Other crime clearance rate	49.6%	43.4%	-12.3%	77.7%	71.7%	-7.7%
<b>Overall <i>Criminal Code</i> clearance rate</b>	<b>27.0%</b>	<b>24.9%</b>	<b>-7.6%</b>	<b>40.9%</b>	<b>38.2%</b>	<b>-6.7%</b>

**Table 5: Crime Severity Index (BC and Canada)**

Crime Severity Index	BC			Canada		
	2018	2019	% Chg	2018	2019	% Chg
Violent crime severity index	75.3	91.5	21.5%	83.6	89.7	7.3%
Non-violent crime severity index	93.7	108.8	16.1%	72.6	75.6	4.1%
Youth crime severity index	33.9	38.3	13.0%	56.6	54.6	-3.6%
<b>Overall crime severity index</b>	<b>89.0</b>	<b>104.4</b>	<b>17.3%</b>	<b>75.6</b>	<b>79.5</b>	<b>5.1%</b>

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## Endnotes

1. The **crime rates** for homicides and attempted murders are calculated on a per 100,000 **population** basis due to the small number of homicide and attempted murder offences. All other **crime rates** in this document are calculated on a per 1,000 population basis.
2. In general, the UCR2 Survey counts an adult or youth **charged** for the year in which the charge was recommended. The homicide totals, which come from the Homicide Survey, count an adult or youth **charged** with a homicide that occurred in the year the crime was reported to the police, regardless of the year in which the charge was recommended.
3. **Sexual offences** include sexual assault level 3 (aggravated), sexual assault level 2 (weapon or causing bodily harm), sexual assault level 1 (common sexual assault), and sexual violations against children.
4. In 2019, the UCR added a new violation code to collect information on "**sexual offences which occurred prior to January 4, 1983,**" and as such, this category only includes data from 2018 onwards. While most violations are not typically reported years after their occurrence, sexual violations may be reported by a victim long after the incident took place due to a variety of reasons. On January 4, 1983, Canadian legislation surrounding sexual offences changed considerably. In order to reflect these changes, the UCR added the new violation code rather than collect historical offences under an existing violation code that did not reflect the state of Canadian legislation at the time of the offence. All offences which occurred prior to January 4, 1983 which had previously been classified as sexual offences under the current legislation have been reclassified in the UCR.
5. **Commodification of sexual activity** is a new offence category created in December 2014 by the passage of Bill C-36, the *Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act*. It is classified as a violent offence and includes: the purchasing of sexual services or communicating for that purpose; receiving a material benefit deriving from the purchase of sexual services; procuring of persons for the purpose of prostitution; and advertising sexual services offered for sale. Other prostitution-related offences continue to be considered non-violent offences, including communicating to provide sexual services for consideration; and stopping or impeding traffic for the purpose of offering, providing, or obtaining sexual services for consideration. As a result of all this, comparisons between prostitution-related offences before and after December 2014 should be made with caution and take these changes into account.
6. **Non-sexual assault offences** include assault level 3 (aggravated), assault level 2 (weapon or causing bodily harm), assault level 1 (common assault), assaulting a peace officer, and other assaults.
7. **Other violent offences** include conspiracy to commit murder, other sexual violations, sexual exploitation of a person with a disability, incest, corrupting morals of a child, bestiality, voyeurism, non-consensual distribution of intimate images, trap likely to or cause bodily harm, hostage taking, trafficking in persons, intimidation of a (non)justice system participant or a journalist, explosives causing death or bodily harm, arson (disregard for human life), and other violent violations.
8. In 2011, the *Criminal Code* was amended creating a new offence for **trafficking property obtained by crime**. The UCR introduced a new violation code for this offence. This new offence has led to a decrease in the number of possession of stolen property offences in 2011 as a result.
9. In 2011, a new UCR violation code for **motor vehicle theft** was created, replacing the previous UCR violations of motor vehicle theft over \$5,000 and motor vehicle theft \$5,000 and under.
10. **Thefts** include theft over \$5,000 (non-motor vehicle) and theft under \$5,000 (non-motor vehicle).
11. **Fraud** offences include fraud, identity theft, and identity fraud. Identity fraud and identity theft are new violation codes which were introduced in 2010.
12. In 2011, the *Criminal Code* was amended to make it illegal for anyone to **alter, destroy, or remove a vehicle identification number (VIN)**. The UCR introduced a new violation code to collect this information.
13. The British Columbia Integrated Child Exploitation Unit (BC ICE) takes a proactive approach to tracking Internet Protocol (IP) addresses in possession of, and possibly sharing, child pornography. This results in an increase in reported **child pornography** violations in different parts of the province in different years (e.g., Surrey starting in 2014, Victoria in 2015, and Vancouver in 2016). Notably, due to the online nature of the offences, the incidents and/or offenders are not necessarily limited to the geographic area targeted.
14. On December 20, 2013 the Supreme Court of Canada found laws surrounding **prostitution** to be unconstitutional and gave parliament 12 months to review and rewrite the legislation. As a result of this, a large number of incidents of prostitution were no longer being reported, leading to a large decrease in the number of prostitution incidents in 2014. New legislation came into force December 6, 2014; as a result, comparisons between prostitution-related offences before and after December 2014 should be made with caution and take these changes into account.
15. **Administration of justice** includes the following offences: fail to comply with order, escape or helps to escape from lawful custody, prisoner unlawfully at large, fail to appear, breach of probation, and other violations against the administration of law and justice.

16. **Other “other” offences** include gaming and betting related offences, indecent acts, corrupting morals, obstructing a peace officer, trespassing at night, uttering threats to property/animals, public incitement of hatred, advocating genocide, unauthorized recording of a movie, offences against public order, offences relating to terrorist activity, invasion of privacy, offences against person or reputation, offences against right of property, freezing of property/disclosure/audit, fraudulent transactions relating to contracts and trade, offences relating to currency, proceeds of crime, attempts/conspiracies/accessories, public morals/disorderly conduct, firearms and other offensive weapons, offences related to criminal organizations, and other offences.
17. **Cannabis** includes all cannabis-related offences that were under the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* (CDSA). When the *Cannabis Act* came into force on October 17, 2018, all prior cannabis-related legislation under the CDSA was replaced with the *Cannabis Act*, and cannabis possession became legal, except under certain circumstances. In 2019, there were still cannabis offences recorded under the CDSA. However, as these offences should have been expired at the end of 2018, percentage changes between 2018 and 2019 have not been included, and comparisons of incident counts between 2018 and 2019 should be made with caution.
18. **Non-heroin opioids** include opioids such as fentanyl. In November 2017, the UCR2 Survey began counting violations involving opioids (other than heroin) under their own unique violation codes. Prior to this, violations involving opioids (including fentanyl) were counted within the category of **other drugs**.
19. **Other drugs** include methylenedioxyamphetamines (ecstasy), the illicit use of prescription drugs (except for non-heroin opioids), and other drugs. Prior to Statistics Canada’s 2019 release of police-reported crime statistics, non-heroin opioids had been included in the category of **other drugs**.
20. The *Cannabis Act* came into force on October 17, 2018. Consequently, there are no comparisons to *Cannabis Act* offences from years prior to 2018, and 2018 *Cannabis Act* offences only represent the final three months of the year. As such, percentage changes between 2018 and 2019 have not been included, and comparisons of incident counts between 2018 and 2019 should be made with caution.
21. **Total drug offences** include *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* (CDSA) and *Cannabis Act* offences.



# Crime Statistics in British Columbia, 2019



## Definitions and Data Qualifiers

- **Population figures** are estimates prepared annually by BC Stats, based on the results of Canada Census which is conducted every five years. These estimates reflect only the permanent or resident population of a jurisdiction. Where a jurisdiction serves as a business and/or entertainment centre, it may have substantial "part-time" and "resident non-resident" populations relative to its resident or "late night" population, i.e., tourists, cabin owners, commuters, students, and seasonal staff. These temporary populations, whose permanent residence is within another jurisdiction, are excluded from a jurisdiction's population figures. **Note:** The 2019 population estimates provided by BC Stats were based on the Statistics Canada 2016 Census boundary geographies adjusted in accordance with current police jurisdiction boundaries.
- **Number of offences** represent only those crimes reported to, or discovered by the police which, upon preliminary investigation, have been deemed to have occurred or been attempted; these data do not represent nor imply a count of the number of charges laid, prosecutions conducted, information sworn, or convictions obtained. The crime data contained in these reports have been recorded by the police utilizing the Uniform Crime Reporting 2 (UCR2) Survey scoring rules and guidelines. If a single criminal incident contains a number of violations of the law, then only the most serious violation is recorded for UCR2 purposes.
- **Total *Criminal Code* offences** (excluding traffic) include property, violent, and other crimes.
- **Violent crimes** include the offences of homicide, attempted murder, sexual and non-sexual assault, sexual offences against children, abduction, forcible confinement or kidnapping, firearms, robbery, criminal harassment, extortion, uttering threats, indecent or harassing communications, and other violent offences.
- **Property crimes** include the offences of breaking and entering, theft, motor vehicle theft, possession of stolen property, trafficking in stolen goods, fraud, mischief, identity theft, identity fraud, arson, altering/removing/destroying a vehicle identification number, and other property offences.
- **Other crimes** include *Criminal Code* offences not classified as either violent or property crimes, e.g., gaming and betting, offensive weapons, offences related to currency, offences against the administration of justice, offences against public order, the possession and/or distribution of child pornography, and other "other" offences.
- **Drug offences** are crimes committed under the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* (CDSA) and the *Cannabis Act*. CDSA drug offences include possession, trafficking, production, and distribution of cannabis (prior to October 17, 2018), cocaine, heroin, non-heroin opioids (including fentanyl), and methamphetamines (crystal meth), and other drug offences. When the *Cannabis Act* came into force on October 17, 2018, all prior cannabis-related legislation under the CDSA was replaced with the *Cannabis Act*, and cannabis possession became legal, except under certain circumstances. Drug offences are not included in the Total *Criminal Code* offences.
- **Crime rate** is the number of *Criminal Code* offences or crimes (excluding drugs and traffic) reported for every 1,000 persons. It is a better measure of trends in crime than the actual number of offences because it allows for population differences. Crime rates for the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* (CDSA) and the *Cannabis Act* are calculated per 1,000 population basis. Since the number of homicides and attempted murders reported is small, rates are calculated on a per 100,000 population basis.

A high crime rate may indicate that a municipality is a "core city", i.e., a business and/or entertainment centre for many people who reside outside, as well as inside, the municipality. As a result, "core cities" may have large part-time or temporary populations which are excluded from both their population bases and their crime rate calculations.

- **Offences cleared** represent the number of offences where the police have identified at least one offender in relation to an offence and have sufficient evidence to solve the offence.
- **Clearance rate** is the number of crimes cleared by police during the year as a percentage of the number of crimes reported by police during that year. The process of solving crimes is often time-consuming and a crime may be solved months or years after it was reported to the police. This may result in the number of offences cleared in a year to be greater than the total number of offences reported to the police that year, which results in a clearance rate exceeding 100%.
- **Persons charged** represent the number of people for whom charges were recommended, rather than the number of charges recommended (e.g., several charges recommended for one person resulting from a single incident counts as one person charged). When an offence is cleared by charge, the number of persons recommended for charge by the police is recorded in the UCR2 Survey. The UCR2 Survey reporting rules dictate that offenders who are simultaneously recommended for charge on more than one offence are counted only once against the most serious offence. In addition, offenders are counted each time the police recommend charges against them for separate incidents. As a result, the correlation of persons charged data with court data is difficult because the UCR2 Survey does not contain information regarding the total number of recommended charges. Total persons charged are the total of adults charged and youth charged.

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- **Crime Severity Index (CSI)** is a tool developed by the Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics (CCJCSS) in 2009 for measuring police reported crime in Canada. CSIs account for the change in the level of severity of crime in from year to year in comparison to other crimes. CSIs use weights which assign higher values to more serious crimes and lower values to less serious high-volume crimes based on actual sentences handed down by the courts in all provinces and territories. The CSI includes all *Criminal Code* violations including traffic, as well as drug violations and all Federal Statutes. Each index has been standardized at 100 for the base year of 2006. A jurisdiction with a higher proportion of more serious crimes will have a higher CSI value while a jurisdiction with a higher proportion of less serious crimes will have a lower CSI value. The CSI is not available for police services with populations less than 1,000. Data for police services with populations less than 5,000 should be used with caution. The CSI weights are periodically updated, and CSI values have been calculated back to 1998.

There are four CSIs:

- The **Overall CSI** is based on the total volume of police reported federal statute offences and measures the relative severity of overall crime.
  - The **Violent CSI** is based on the total volume of police reported violent federal statute offences and measures the relative severity of violent crime.
  - The **Non-violent CSI** is based on the total volume of police reported federal statute offences not considered violent in nature and measures the relative severity of non-violent crime.
  - The **Youth CSI** is based on the same principles as the Overall CSI, which reflects the relative seriousness of different offences, but uses the number of youths accused instead of an incident count to measure the relative severity of crimes committed by youth.
- Crime data from the previous years are revised by Statistics Canada to reflect any updates or changes that have been received from the police services. Due to this and other factors, the data contained in this report may vary when compared with previous reports produced by Policing and Security Branch. Where variances occur, the report produced at the latest date will reflect the most current data available.
  - The population estimates reported in this document and used to calculate crime rates are provided by BC Stats and may vary from those provided by Statistics Canada.
  - Rates have been rounded to the nearest 0.1 which may affect calculations.

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## Sources

### Crime Data

Statistics Canada. 2020. *Table 35-10-0184-01 Incident-based crime statistics, by detailed violations, police services in British Columbia*. Statistics Canada database. Released October 29, 2020.

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=3510018401> (accessed October 29, 2020).

Statistics Canada. 2020. *Table 35-10-0063-01 Crime severity index and weighted clearance rates, police services in British Columbia*. Statistics Canada database. Released October 29, 2020.

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=3510006301> (accessed October 29, 2020).

### Population Data

BC Stats, Ministry of Citizens' Services, Province of British Columbia. Last updated February 2020.